

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7137

BILL NUMBER: HB 1340

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 7, 2009

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Compulsory School Attendance.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. VanDenburgh

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill requires a student to be at least 18 years of age in order to drop out of school. It repeals provisions permitting a student less than 18 years of age to drop out of school under certain circumstances. The bill makes conforming changes.

Effective Date: July 1, 2009.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The bill could decrease the number of students that withdraw from school. The bill could increase the state tuition support distributions the year following the withdrawal if the student was not in 12th grade when they might have withdrawn. The impact would depend on the number of additional students and if they attended growing or declining schools. State tuition support is limited by both the appropriation and a calendar year maximum distribution. If the bill cause the distribution to exceed either the fiscal year of calendar year limits then the distribution would be proportionately reduced.

Background: During the 2006-07 school year about 9,076 students withdrew from school for various reasons. About 4,650 of the students were less than 18 years of age. The following table summarizes the primary reason for the withdrawal from school according to the Department's dropout report by age.

Dropout Reason Codes	Under 18	18 and Over	Total
Record of School Failure	242	582	824
Disinterest in Curriculum	860	1,648	2,508
Interpersonal problems	54	72	126
Incorrigibility	63	48	111
Need or desire to earn money	230	257	487
Poor Home Environment	28	60	88
Drug abuse	9	10	19
Marriage	16	15	31
Pregnancy	136	88	224
Poor health	66	33	99
Friends or Peer Pressure	4	3	7
Armed Services Enlistment	20	25	45
Unknown or No Shows	1,625	1,140	2,765
Expulsion	1,242	366	1,608
Missing but located	48	33	81
Failure of GQE	13	40	53
Total	4,656	4,420	9,076

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: The impact on schools would depend is additional staff or space was needed for the additional students. The additional impact per school would probably be minor.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Education

Local Agencies Affected: Local schools.

Information Sources: Local schools.

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